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ISRAEL MPs PASS CONTROVERSIAL LAW TO WEAKEN SUPREME COURT

The bill prevents judicial checks on political power and forms a key part of PM Benjamin Netanyahu's plan to reshape the justice system

OPPOSITION BOYCOTTS FINAL VOTE

The bill passed with 64 votes in favour and zero against it, with the Opposition boycotting the final vote in protest. Multiple last-minute attempts within the Knesset to amend the bill or to come to a broader procedural compromise with the Opposition failed. A series of ideas for unilaterally softening the legislation, discussed by Netanyahu and key coalition leaders, also led nowhere

THOUSANDS OF PROTESTERS HIT STREETS

- According to the law's text, courts are prohibited from exercising any scrutiny over the 'reasonableness' of cabinet and minister decisions. Besides, parliament would have the final say in selecting judges
- Amid the marathon Parliament debate, hundreds of thousands of protesters took to the streets, both for and against the bill

P12

30 hours

OF CONTINUED FLOOR DEBATE SINCE SUNDAY MORNING BEFORE THE VOTING

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Harsh action against Sanjay Singh, claims Oppn; Shah says ready for debate on Manipur

Relay protest as RS suspends AAP member

A relay protest by Opposition MPs on Parliament premises over the suspension of AAP MP Sanjay Singh (C) from the monsoon session, in New Delhi on Monday | PTI

RAJNATH'S BID FAILS TO END IMPASSE

Though defence minister Rajnath Singh spoke to floor leaders to find a way out of the impasse, a senior Congress leader told this paper that "It did not yield any result as the government is not willing to agree to the Opposition's demand on PM's statement"

UNIV STUDENTS HOLD PEACE RALLY IN IMPHAL

Students of the Manipur University took out a peace rally in Imphal. They said teachers and students were not being able to attend classes across institutions and demanded the restoration of peace and internet. They were prevented from marching to Chief Minister N Biren Singh's residence

PREETHA NAIR AND PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ New Delhi/Guwahati

THE ongoing faceoff in Parliament on the Manipur situation took a turn on Monday after Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) member Sanjay Singh was suspended from the Rajya Sabha for the rest of the session for repeatedly violating the directive of the Chair.

Demanding the revocation of his selective suspension, the Opposition began a day-and-night sit-in protest at the Gandhi statue in Parliament complex.

Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar ordered the suspension after Leader of the House Piyush Goyal moved a motion. It was adopted by the House by voice vote.

"I am ready for discussion on Manipur. I don't know why the Opposition does not want it"

Amit Shah

Speaking to this newspaper, Rajya Sabha member Sushmita Dev said the allies of INDIA will hold the sit-in protest until the suspension is revoked. "We will sit on a rotational basis. On Monday, I sat from 4-6 pm along with Jairam Ramesh, Derek O'Brien, Sanjay Singh and Manoj Jha among others. At any given point of time, there will be more than 10 MPs," said Dev, adding his suspension was unwarranted.

"I am surprised that such a harsh measure was taken. I have a feeling that it has to do with the numbers game vis-a-vis the Delhi Ordinance. Sanjay Singh was demanding a statement from the PM on Manipur, which all of us were demanding. There were around 20 MPs in the Well at that time," said Dev.

Earlier in the day, both Houses of Parliament were adjourned amid din over Opposition's demand to hold a discussion on Manipur under Rule 267. Several members moved adjournment motions on the matter in both Houses.

Amid ruckus in the Lok Sabha, Union home minister Amit Shah said that the government is willing to hold discussions on Manipur in Parliament and urged the Opposition to let it happen. "Several members have demanded a discussion on Manipur. It is a very sensitive issue and I am ready for the discussion. I urge the leader of the Opposition to allow the discussion to take place. It is important that the truth comes out," he said.

In Manipur, the police said they had identified 14 more suspects of the May 4 strip-parade incident involving two women from a viral video even as a large group of women vented its ire outside the residence of Union minister R K Ranjan Singh in Imphal. The police said efforts were being made to trace and arrest all suspects.

Meira Paibis (women torchbearers) staged a protest outside the residence of the Union minister in the Imphal East district demanding he speak in Parliament on the Manipur situation. He was away in Delhi.

On June 15, a mob had partially torched the minister's residence. Later, he publicly admitted that the state government had completely failed to maintain law and order.

A woman protester told journalists that they wanted the minister to raise their grievances in Parliament. "We want the Central leaders to come to Manipur and assess the situation. We appeal to the President the Governor to help restore peace," she said.

FEVICOL DEAL IN WORKS TO UNITE NCP, ALIGN WITH BJP

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

A new formula to keep the fractured NCP intact is in the works with Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar creating space to accommodate the parent faction of the party that is with patriarch Sharad Pawar, though its numerical strength in the Assembly is in single digits.

The parent faction appears to have reconciled to the fact that Ajit is way too strong, and age is on the senior Pawar's side to take his fight against the ambitious cousin to its logical conclusion.

The deal being worked out includes accommodating Sharad Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule at the Centre and finding a berth for Jayant Patil, state president of the parent NCP, in the Maharashtra Cabinet. Patil would get to keep his position as state president, too, while Sunil Tatkare, the current state president of the Ajit Pawar faction, would resign.

Supriya Sule and Ajit Pawar

To get the senior Pawar's consent, BJP has to immediately promote Ajit Pawar as Maharashtra chief minister, accommodate Patil in it, and offer two top Cabinet berths at the Centre, a top source in NCP revealed requesting anonymity.

Sharad Pawar had earlier formed a four-member committee comprising Ajit Pawar, Praful Patel, Supriya Sule and Jayant Patil to work out the modalities of sharing power with the BJP. The new formula is the outcome of that panel's meeting.

"Amid these negotiations, Sharad Pawar was asked to drop his visit to Bengaluru for the united Opposition meeting on July 17 and 18. He skipped the first day but went to Bengaluru on the second day. Supriya was planning to accompany him but dropped it at the eleventh hour as a positive gesture towards Ajit," the source added.

Supriya represents Baramati in the Lok Sabha. She was told that Ajit has huge clout in Baramati. Seeking re-election without his support would make it difficult for her to retain the seat.

Interestingly, Sharad Pawar's grandnephew Rohit Pawar, a first time MLA from Karjat Jamkhed, is vehemently against going with the BJP. "He has conveyed that wants to create his own space in state politics by following the NCP's secular and progressive ideology," a source close to him said.

(Above) College students wade through a flooded road in Panja, Sullia taluk, Dakshina Kannada, to appear for exams, on Monday; (Below) A video grab shows Sharath Kumar standing on a rock at Arasinagundi Falls, just before he slipped

MEGHALAYA

Mob attacks CM's office, 5 cops hurt

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

MEGHALAYA Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma's office in Tura came under attack on Monday evening when thousands of people gathered outside and pelted stones. The police force present there retaliated by firing teargas shells to disperse the crowd. In the commotion that followed, five police personnel were injured, the chief minister's office (CMO) said.

Sangma was in the office but escaped unhurt. He was holding a discussion with some organisations, which were demanding that Tura be declared as the state's winter capital and the backlog of jobs meant for the Garo community be cleared forthwith.

Official sources said Sangma was holding peaceful discussions when a mob emerged and carried out the attack. "The chief minister had invited the agitating groups for a discussion in the presence of all stakeholders. Meanwhile, a crowd of thousands of people gathered outside the CMO, Tura and started pelting stones," they said.

Fulfil Rahul's promise: Ballari jeans cos to govt

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR @ Ballari

OWNERS of Ballari jeans manufacturing units are unhappy with the state government over not implementing a promise made by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi while campaigning for the Assembly elections.

Rahul had promised a Rs 5,000 crore special package to help the industry and to develop Ballari district into a hub of jeans industries in the country. The video of Rahul's promise is now going viral.

The industrialists are unhappy that even several weeks after assuming office, the Siddramaiah government has not honoured Rahul's promise and has not made any mention of it in the budget. They also pointed out that no funds have been reserved in the budget to develop a jeans textile park. Rahul had said the decision on allocating the funds will be taken at the first cabinet meeting of the Congress government.

One of the owners, Pollux Mallikarjun, said, "We had hoped that when one of the national leaders made the promise, it would be honoured. But nothing has been done."

Death threats issued to 6 Karnataka HC judges, including 2 ex-judges, PRO

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Central CEN Crime Police have launched a manhunt for an accused who has allegedly sent death threats to six judges of the Karnataka High Court, including two former judges and the Public Relation Officer.

The accused sent the threat message to the WhatsApp number of the High Court PRO, K Muralidhar, around 7 pm on July 12. It is Muralidhar's official number provided by the High Court. An FIR was registered by the Central CEN Crime Police on July 14. The complaint has been registered against an unknown person for demanding Rs 50 lakh and issuing the death threats.

According to the FIR (Crime Number 0561/2023), the PRO received a WhatsApp message stating that Rs 50 lakh should be deposited into a bank account of ABL Allied Bank Ltd in Pakistan. The message was sent from the number +1929237-1677.

"The names of judges mentioned in the FIR copy are Mohammad Nawaz, HT Narendra Prasad, Ashok G Nijagannavar, HP Sandesh, K Natarajan and B Veerappa. The accused in the message has threatened to kill the six judges including the complainant through a 'Dubai Gang' if the amount is not deposited. The threat messages are sent in Hindi, Urdu and English languages. The accused has also mentioned five mobile phone numbers along with the threat messages stating 'Yah Indian Hamare aapke Shooter Hain'," according to the complaint filed by the PRO.

Ashok G Nijagannavar and B Veerappa are former judges.

ILLUSTRATION: SOUMYADIP SINHA

ELON MUSK REBRANDS TWITTER AS 'X', REPLACES ICONIC BIRD LOGO

The billionaire on Monday unveiled a new 'X' logo for the social media platform he bought for $44 billion last year, marking a new focus to build an 'everything app'. A white X on a black background became the new logo on Twitter's website, though the blue bird was still on the mobile app | P12

EXPRESS READ

Govt ratifies 8.15% EPF rate for FY23

New Delhi: EPFO on Monday said the government has approved its recommendation made in March to increase the interest rate for FY23 to 8.15% from 8.1% last year. As per the trustee recommendations, more than ₹90,000 crore in interest will be distributed among EPFO members on the total principal amount of about ₹11 lakh crore | P13

Man posing for Insta reel slips into falls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Udupi

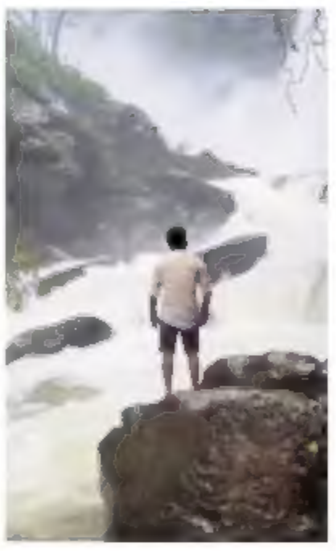
AS heavy showers continued to pound the state, a youth fell into a waterfalls, while a 13-year-old mentally challenged girl drowned in an overflowing stream in Udupi district.

The 23-year-old youth from Bhadravati in Shivamogga district, who was posing for an Instagram reel, slipped into the Arasinagundi Falls in Kollur police limits here on Sunday evening.

In the video that has gone viral, the deceased, Sharath Kumar, is seen standing on a rock posing for the reel. He shuffles his feet ever so slightly, but slips and falls into the roaring waters in a fraction of a second.

On Monday, Sharath's family members arrived in Kollur and diving expert Eshwar Malpe from Malpe reached the spot to assist fire and emergency services and police department staff to trace the body. They were not successful till late on Monday evening.

The search will continue on Tuesday, said Jayashree Honnur, sub-inspector at Kollur police station.



Though there is a ban on trekking in the area during monsoon months, Sharath and his friend Gururaj had walked 6 km before reaching the falls in the Mookambika Wildlife Sanctuary in Kollur that comes under the Kudremukh Wildlife Division. CONTINUED ON: P5

93%

ED's CONVICTION RATE IN NINE YEARS, SAYS GOVT

The agency has reported a conviction rate of more than 93% in money laundering cases over the last nine years, the Centre informed the Parliament on Monday

Ministry wants B'luru suburban rail to touch neighbouring dists

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited K-RIDE has prepared a new proposal to extend the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP) by 452 km, touching nearby districts and towns. It has now sought the approval of the Railway Ministry to conduct a pre-feasibility study.

Infrastructure Development Minister MB Patil's office, in a release, stated on Monday that with the new extension under Phase 2, the rail project will reach Kolar, Tumakuru, Mysuru, Bangarapet, Gauribidanur and even Hosur. The extension will be from Devanahalli to Kolar along Corridor 1 which is 107 km, Chikkabanavara to Tumkur via Dabaspet along Corridor 2 which is 55 km, Kengeri to Mysuru Corridor 3 which is 125 km, Whitefield to Bangarpete along Corridor 3 which is 45 km, Heelalige to Hosur along Corridor 4 which is 23 km and Rajanukunte to Gauribidhanuru via Doddaballapura along Corridor 4 which is 52 km. It also proposes a new 'Corridor 2A' from Chikkabanavara to Magadi (45 km). The existing project of BSRP has four corridors covering a length of 148.17 km. It comprises KSR Bengaluru City to Devanahalli (Corridor 1 - 41.4 km), Baiyappanahalli to Chikkabanavara (Corridor 2 - 25.01 km), Kengeri to Whitefield (Corridor 3 - 25.01 km) and Heelalige to Rajanukunte (Corridor 4 - 46.25 km).

Patil had advised K-RIDE officials to prepare a revised proposal extending the BSRP to include the above-mentioned places during a BSRP review meeting last month, the release stated. This, according to the minister, would facilitate hassle-free commutes for people and enable industrial development.

While seeking approval of the Railway Ministry, it has been mentioned that the commissioner, Directorate of Urban Land Transport had also suggested K-RIDE to consider extending the current BSRP network from Heelalige to Chandapura, Kengeri to Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, Challaghatta and further. It has also been suggested to K-RIDE to start preparing a detailed project report for extending suburban rail to satellite towns.

SC halts Gyanvapi survey till 5pm on Wednesday

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Monday stayed the Varanasi district court's order directing the Archaeological Survey of India to conduct a scientific survey of the Gyanvapi mosque. The stay is valid till July 26, 5 pm.

Noting that the district court's order was pronounced at 4.30 pm on Friday and the ASI commenced its survey from Monday, a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and judges J B Pardiwala and Manoj Mishra said some breathing time should be given to the Muslim side to appeal. The court also directed the HC to hear the appeal before the expiry of the stay.

The SC passed the order after senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, appearing for the mosque committee, told the bench that no breathing time was given to his client to file an appeal.